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PUBLIC SCHOOLS,

MONTREAL,

CITY OF QUEBEC

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC,

DOMINION OF CANADA,

1878.



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PUBLIC INSTRUCTION in Montreal (as in the Province of Quebec generally) is under the supervision of two distinct bodies,—the one representing the Roman Catholic, the other the Protestant part of the population.

MCGILL UNIVERSITY.

This University, directed by its Governors and Corporation, was originally founded and endowed by the Hon. James McGill in 1811, and received a Royal Charter as a University in 1821. It is a non-denominational Protestant institution, and proposes no religious tests to its students.

Liberal contributions from wealthy citizens have been bestowed from time to time in augmentation of the original endowment. By the revenue thus created it maintains a Faculty of Arts, with 12 professors and 140 students; a Department of Practical and Applied Science, subordinate to the Faculty of Arts, with 26 students and 4 professors; a Faculty of Medicine, with 15 professors and 160 students; and a Faculty of Law, with 11 professors and 100 students.

The courses of study in Arts, Applied Science, and Medicine extend over four years; that in Law over three years. The primary degrees given are B.A., App. Sci., M.D., and B.C.L.

Morrin College, Quebec, is affiliated with the University, and in the City of Montreal there are two affiliated Theological Colleges, whose students attend lectures in the Faculty of Arts, while receiving their theological training in their own Colleges. Two other Theological Colleges not affiliated to the University send students to attend its classes.

McGILL NORMAL & MODEL SCHOOLS.

The Normal School, established by the Canadian Government in 1857, and supported by an annual grant from the Province of Quebec, is the provincial training school for Protestant teachers. The Model School, attached to it, is an elementary school designed to afford the teachers-in-training an opportunity to acquire by practice experience in imparting instruction and in maintaining discipline. The Normal School has 9 professors and instructing officers and 126 teachers-in-training, for whom a three years' course of instruction is provided. The Model School has 8 masters and mistresses and 350 pupils. These institutions are administered by the Superintendent of Education of the Province of Quebec, in association with a committee of the Corporation of the McGill University.

PROTESTANT BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS.

This body, under powers conferred by legislation, controls the expenditure of the proceeds of the School Tax levied upon real estate in Montreal belonging to Protestants. It was called into existence by Act of Parliament in 1846. The money placed at its disposal in 1847 was \$558,95. From that date to 1861 its annual receipts from the Government and the City Council scarcely averaged \$1,200. During the next six years it received about \$1,800 per annum. Consequent upon the guarantees given to Protestants in the accomplishment of Confederation by the British North American Act, a more liberal provision was made for the maintenance of schools. During the years 1868-'69-'70 respectively, the income of the Board, omitting school fees, was \$8,900, \$19,400, and \$18,300. In 1871 the School Tax of Montreal was fixed at one-tenth of one per cent on the assessed value of all rateable property. This raised the income of the Board from the City and the Government to about \$26,000 per annum. In the year 1873, in answer to an application from the City Council, supported by a petition of citizens, the School Tax was doubled, and the income of the Board became more nearly adequate to the work devolving on it.

This tax, at the rate of one-fifth of one per cent of the assessed value of property belonging to Protestant proprietors,

yields an annual revenue of \$75,000. With this sum, augmented by an annual grant of something less than \$4,000 from the Provincial Treasury, and by the school fees of the several schools, which amount to about \$23,000 per annum, the Board pays the interest and sinking fund on a quarter of a million of dollars, borrowed by debentures and expended in erecting school buildings, and maintains a High School for boys, a High School for girls, a Senior School, and a system of Elementary Schools.

THE HIGH SCHOOL OF MONTREAL.

This school was established in 1843, by citizens of Montreal, as a proprietary school, succeeding by arrangement with the government of the day, to the *status* and privileges of the Royal Grammar school, which had been established by royal warrant some years previously. In the year 1853 it passed into the hands of the McGill University, by which, in turn, it was surrendered to the charge of the Protestant Board of School Commissioners in 1870.

This school is especially a classical school for boys, and leads up to the course in arts of the University. With its preparatory classes it provides a *curriculum* extending throughout eight years of school work, during the last two of which a pupil, desiring to enter the department of Practical and Applied Science in the McGill University, may cease the study of Latin and Greek, replacing it by a severer course in Mathematics and the elements of Chemistry and Botany.

Into the High School all are admitted on payment of the prescribed fees; but in addition, all such boys from the elementary schools as show the possession of unusual talent and diligence during their course in them, are transferred to it as free scholars, and from it are promoted without expense to the University.

The High School of Montreal has 431 pupils, taught by 16 teachers.

THE HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.

This school was opened by the Commissioners in 1875, in answer to a general demand for superior education for girls. Now,

in the third year of its existence, it has 227 pupils and a teaching staff of 15 persons. Promising girls from the elementary schools are admitted to it free of charge.

SENIOR SCHOOL.

This school was opened in 1877, with the purpose of providing for pupils, who have passed through the elementary schools, a course of business training including a thorough review of English subjects, book-keeping, the rudiments of algebra, geometry and mensuration, British history, the elements of commercial law, and the French and German languages. The course of the Senior school covers two years. There are in attendance 86 pupils under the charge of 8 teachers.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

The first public elementary school, in Montreal, and one of the first in the Province of Canada, now the provinces of Ontario and Quebec, was established by a committee of gentlemen, in the year 1822, and was designated the British and Canadian School. The necessary funds were furnished from year to year by public subscription and by an annual subvention voted by the Legislature. In the institution and maintenance of the school Lord Dalhousie, then Governor, and many prominent persons of both British and French Canadian origin took a lively interest. After a chequered history of forty-four years this school was handed over to the control of the Protestant School Commissioners.

The first Protestant Elementary Schools in Montreal, established under a general public system, were two schools opened in 1850 by the Protestant School Commissioners, which provided instruction for 244 pupils, taught by three teachers. Now the Commissioners maintain nine elementary schools, attended by 3,125 pupils and taught by 84 teachers.

These schools provide a five-years' course of instruction, properly graded and organized in accordance with regulations and limit-tables issued by the Board. Many pupils complete the course in five years, but owing to natural inaptitude, irregularity of attendance and other causes, the average pupil, beginning to attend school at the age of six and a half years, finishes the work

of the elementary school at thirteen years of age. At that age he is able to read English with ease and expression; he can write a letter or draw out an account legibly, in proper form and with but few errors in spelling or computation; he can use the elementary rules of arithmetic with speed and accuracy, and with some hesitation and an occasional mistake, he can solve questions in fractions, proportion and interest; he has an elementary knowledge of French, of English Grammar, of Geography and of Canadian History; he has learned by rote several songs, and he can copy a simple outline drawing with reasonable accuracy and neatness. If he has aspired to the High School, one years' instruction in Latin has been provided for him.

SCHOOL FEES.

The Law of the Province of Quebec does not recognize free schools but it provides that the fees shall be moderate, and it makes such provision for cases of indigence that no child is excluded from the elementary schools by inability to pay the school fees demanded. The fees of children attending the elementary Protestant schools of Montreal range from 10c. to *20c. a month. The actual cost of the instruction given was \$13 for each pupil in attendance during the school year 1866-7, of which amount each pupil paid in school fees \$1.66. In the High Schools the cost of education is much greater, amounting to \$41.06 for each pupil for a year. But as each pupil pays an average school-fee of \$37.43 a year, the cost of each pupil to the school tax is but \$3.63 per annum.



*About one franc.